



John Reich Journal

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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues $20.00
Life Membership $500.00

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: Newly Discovered 1806 0130 Draped Bust Half Dollar and 1835 LM 12 Capped Bust Half Dime

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Editor's Comments

As you can see from the cover of this journal something new is in store for you. This is the first journal that has featured two coins, for a very good reason. I would like to introduce to you 1806 O130 and 1835 LM12. These are both NEW die marriages discovered recently by members of the John Reich Collectors Society. Mark Borchardt discovered the half dollar when cataloging coins for an upcoming Heritage auction. It will be sold (hopefully to a JRCS member) at the Central States show in St. Louis this April. The half dime was discovered by noted half dollar researcher Edgar Souders when he compared a new purchase to his set piece. The interesting stories follow in the pages of this journal.

The interesting thing about both of these discoveries is that they are both marriages of two known dies. This should reinforce the need to accurately attribute BOTH sides of your coins (right Edgar?). There are still new and interesting things to discover in the world of bust coinage for those interested (and lucky) enough to look carefully.

The first Early American Coppers meeting that is open to JRCS members happens later this month in St. Louis. The copper collectors have been gracious enough to offer us the opportunity to join their fun and education. Hopefully we will make a good impression and work towards having joint conventions. Next year's convention is scheduled for Dallas, Texas and hopefully we can schedule silver coin happenings for the convention. This is where collectors bring selected die marriages to the show for viewing and study. The copper collectors vote on the best of each marriage and report the results of not only the voting, but the research that is conducted on the coins present. In order to fully participate we will need a number of JRCS volunteers to help conduct the happenings in Dallas. Please begin considering attending and helping with this worthwhile project. Those interested can contact me at jrcs19@roadrunner.com. or PO Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030. I will provide a review of the convention in the next journal.

I hope you enjoy one of the most interesting and significant journals I have had the opportunity to present to the membership during my stewardship. The information contained here will prove to be noteworthy for decades to come. The opportunity to participate with the Early American Copper Club's convention is a major step forward in the understanding of our early coinage and the means used for production. Be a part of history, write something for a future journal, volunteer for a position at the next EAC convention, or share your collection with someone doing research. Enjoy your collection and have FUN!

Notice: Capped Bust Half Dollar Rarity 4-8 Census Information is Solicited for inclusion in the next issue of the John Reich Journal.

See pages 25-26 for more information.

Announcing the 1806 Overton-130 Half Dollar

Mark Borckardt



Obverse 11



Reverse K

Every student of early coinage dreams of finding a new variety, but none expects to be so lucky. In the 19th and early 20th century, it was not hard to find a new die combination as variety studies were still in their infancy. But now, in the 21st century, every series from half cents to gold have been studied and so thoroughly documented that it seems nothing remains to be found. Periodically, however, an announcement of a new variety makes its rounds, and rarely do two announcements take place simultaneously.

In early January 2007, Heritage Excecutive Vice President Leo Frese received an email from a mid-western couple who had a collection that they desired to sell. They had inherited these coins and now wished to liquidate the collection in order to purchase more land for their farm. When Leo examined the inventory, he called for my assistance as many of the half dollars were recorded by Beistle numbers, others by one and two digit Overton numbers, and very few by the familiar three digit Overton numbers used today. When I told Leo that this might be the first inventory I had ever seen with half dollars by Beistle number, we discussed the collection further and decided that he should arrange to pick up the coins for an upcoming auction.

Once the collection arrived and initial consignment control procedures were accomplished, I sat down with all the early half dollars to begin attribution. Most of the attribution was straight-forward, including verification of varieties recorded by the original collector. In some cases, attribution was more challenging, and in one case it turned out to be impossible. This "impossible coin" was an 1806 Pointed 6 half dollar, the familiar type with the olive stem extending through the eagle's claw.

Over a period of many years, I have developed attribution charts for my own use, covering every series from half cents to gold. My charts have proven to be more than 95% accurate for every denomination and date. I quickly scanned the coin for immediately obvious characteristics, such as a recut TY in LIBERTY, a digit 6 cut over an inverted 6, or an E cut over an A in STATES. After ruling out these obvious varieties, I next scanned my attribution

chart and found that the digits 1 and 6 in the date were joined to the curl and drapery, one of my principal categories. Three different reverse dies were recorded with this obverse, including the E over A variety. For these varieties, my attribution chart looks like this:

1 and 6 attached to curl and drapery

E over A in STATES	O-124, R-6
Leaf point below right base of I, small tines at shield corners	O-123, R-4
Leaf point below left upright of I	O-128, R-8

By this time, I was firmly convinced that I had overlooked something entirely obvious, as the only variety that this coin resembles is Overton-128, a recently discovered die marriage that is still unique. My next step was to open my copy of Overton to 1806, and begin studying descriptions and plates. Using a similar process as before, I first eliminated all of the overdates and Knobbed 6 varieties as possibilities. The stem is through the eagle's claw, thus it is not O-109. Most berries on the reverse have stems, thus it is not O-110. The digit 6 is not punched over an inverted 6, thus O-111 and O-112 are ruled out. The digits 1 and 6 clearly join the curl and bust, thus O-113 can also be ruled out. It certainly can't be O-114, 115, or 116 as there is no trace of recutting at TY, besides, the 6 does not touch the drapery. O-117 uses the same obverse as the other three, and it can't be this variety either. Obverse 10 of O-118 through 122 has the 6 nearly touching the bust, but there is a slight space. Besides, star 7 points between dentils on obverse 10 and star 13 is distant from the drapery, both dissimilar to my coin (notice that it is now "my" coin, even though it still belongs to our consigner).

Next is obverse 11, with the 1 and 6 attached to the curl and bust. I had already considered this possibility earlier when I reviewed my attribution chart. A quick review of the description in Overton, and I was certain that my coin was identical. The star positions all seemed to match and the letters of LIBERTY all seemed to be in the right locations.

I was almost to the end of the 1806 chapter, so I quickly looked at the remaining varieties. O-125 is from the same obverse as O-109, with the 1 and 6 close to the curl and drapery but not touching. Obverse 12 of O-127 has the 1 and 6 nearly touching the curl and drapery, and it also has stars 6 and 7 nearly touching, clearly not the same as my coin, and obverse 13 of O-129 (another new discovery) has star 7 and L appearing to touch, also not the same as my piece. My review of all 1806 die varieties has shown that my coin is clearly either O-123, O-124, or O-128. It couldn't be anything else. Back to the reverse dies and further study with the Overton reference.

Overton-123 has small tines extending up from the corners of the shield, and it has a leaf point below the right base of I in AMERICA. I can't find any tines, and my piece has the leaf point left of center below I. The Overton plate shows a fine die crack from the wing tip to the tops of ST, curving down below the tops of AT. My piece has a crack through the tops of STATES, clearly different. O-123 is now ruled out as a possibility.

Overton-124 is the famous E over A variety with the E in STATES punched over an errant A. There is no such feature on my coin, and besides, O-124 has the leaf point below the extreme right base of I. Now, I am convinced that this mystery coin must be O-128, a relatively new variety that was discovered in 1995 and remains unique today. As I examine the plate and description in the fourth edition of Overton, I notice that O-128 is from reverse

L used earlier for O-116. The description states that the lowest berry has no stem, and that the point of the leaf is just left of center below I. Both of these characteristics seem to fit. I checked additional diagnostics: F is missing its right base, the upper two berries have heavy stems joined at the base, and a star point is joined to tip of the beak. All of these diagnostics seem to match, or they are extremely close. By now I am starting to become exciting about finding the second O-128, but it still doesn't "feel" right. Then I noticed two features that do not match. First, the space between two clouds is below the right edge of the upright of E in STATES on reverse L and the left base of the first A in AMERICA is directly over the fourth feather. Both of these characteristics are entirely different. On my piece, the left base of A is almost entirely to the right of the fourth feather, and well above it; and the cloud space is below the center of E.

Over a period of time and study, I am slowly realizing that this might be a new variety, but I have learned over many years that simple oversights can be embarassing. The obverse of this 1806 half dollar is clearly obverse 11, it couldn't be anything else. My Overton reference is opened again, this time to examine every known reverse die. Only reverse dies E, K, L, P, and U have the leaf point left of center below the I, and reverse U has this leaf point entirely left of I, below the space between RI. Reverse E has the base of F complete, and full stems on all the berries. Reverse K seems to match my coin. We have already examined reverse L, as it appears on O-128, and reverse P has a vertical defect line from the left shield corner to the scroll above. Returning to reverse K, every individual characteristic mentioned in Overton is present, including the recut base of the first T in STATES. The die crack through the top of STATES is even mentioned for state 2 of this reverse. I have no doubt that my coin has reverse K, and I also now have no doubt that I have found a new variety.

Photographs were prepared as I went over to visit with Leo. I told him that I had found a new variety in the consignment he picked up, and he just smiled. By this time I had also checked the weight, ringtone, and other tests to make sure I had a genuine coin. This piece weighs 13.27 grams, a tad below standard, but it is a circulated coin. It has a good ringtone when compared to other 1806 and 1807 half dollars. The edge lettering appears to be exactly right. The next step was confirmation. I sent email photos to Chuck DeOlden, who then suggested that I also send photos to Brad Higgens, and Bill Nyberg for additional confirmation.

Bill Nyberg went through his own analysis of this piece in his reply: "I checked the obverse star to dentil relationship of all stars of my 124 to the large picture of the coin, all match. The centers are soft, as all Obverse 11 coins seem to have, with sharp drapery lines. The weakness in BE of the coin is not apparent on 123 or 124. All diagnostics appear to match Obverse 11. The diagnostics of the reverse also seem to match Reverse K. The letter to dentil relationships are consistent. It is definately not Reverse L (often misattributed with Reverse K), or Reverse Q (note star to U), or any other Heraldic Eagle Reverse. The coin shows the heavy clashmarks of the drapery lines through O as on 115a. One interesting point, I owned a very late die stage of 06 115a, and it did not have any sign of a crack through UNITED, but had a similar crack through STATES as this coin. I checked some 115a's in the Heritage archives and also could not find a crack through UNITED. Overton might be in error in describing the crack through UNITED on 115a."

Both Nyberg and Higgins were also intrigued by die state comparisons. With no evidence of a die crack through UNITED as described by Overton, initial thoughts suggested that this piece was struck between early and late states of O-115, meaning that late states of O-115 represented a die remarriage. Higgins commented: "A muling and subsequent remarriage is utterly unprecedented among early halves. It has been speculated that this has happened, but it is difficult to get together enough raw examples for comparison." If later die states of O-115 actually do exist, as recorded by Overton, a die remarriage of this variety can be proven. However, until such a coin appears, it is likely that all examples of O-115 were struck before this O-130.

Higgins further commented: "After reviewing all the data, I agree with Bill that this die marriage was struck after both 123 and 115. There is a considerable amount of evidence to prove that light cracks were lapped off, which explains why later die states might not exhibit cracks found on earlier die states. Exactly where it will fit into the emission sequence, I don't yet know. However, this does reaffirm my faith in the 'orderly progression' hypothesis. Every time it appears that we have come across something that goes against this, further research always bears out Gunnet and Leaman's assertion that until 1825 or so, planchets made an orderly progression from the Castaing machine to the coining press, and if an edge die or die crack progression appears to contradict it, it is due to a missing piece of the puzzle. Further, I doubt that any remarriage from the early years will ever be found. Once a die pair was separated, it was for good. Draped Bust dies didn't last long enough to need repeated dressings, and one trip to the diesinker was the most that any die might be expected to survive. While a remarriage of the reverse K would have been more interesting, it is reassuring that order has been maintained. So far."

This new 1806 half dollar variety has been certified by NGC as VF30 and will be offered by Heritage at the Central States Numismatic Society auction in May. All JRCS members are invited to contact Heritage for a complimentary copy of the catalog by email to markb@ha.com or 1-800-872-6467, ext. 345.

Editor's Note: See a related article by Mark Borckardt on page 33 of this journal.

Notice: Capped Bust Half Dollar Rarity 4-8 Census Information is Solicited for inclusion in the next issue of the John Reich Journal.
See pages 25-26 for more information.

New Die Marriage of 1835 Capped Bust Half-Dime Discovered

Edgar E. Souders, NLG





In July 2, of 1832 Paulson's "American Daily Advertiser" ran the following advertisement:

"United States Mint Property under authority from the President of the United States, will be sold at Public Sale on Thursday, the 19th of July, 1832, at 8 o'clock in the evening at the Merchants Coffee House:

The site of the old Mint, together with the improvements thereon, and a quantity of valuable machinery...

...The machinery comprises a steam engine of 10 horse power, together with a complete system of rolling apparatus for hot or cold rolling, together with a drawing table connected with the steam power, all now in daily use, with a variety of other implements, furnaces, etc."

The advertisement further noted:

"The premises and machinery will be offered either separately or together, as may be considered most advantageous to the United States and to those persons inclined to purchase. Terms, etc. at sale.

S. Moore, Director

C.J. Wolbert, Auctioneer"

However, because of delays with the new Second U.S. Mint building the old Mint was withdrawn from the sale. Six months later in January of 1833, the old Mint's machinery was removed and taken to the now finished Second Mint where it was used until 1835. Later that year the threadbare engines were hauled back to the original Mint where on October 8, the first Mint and its remaining machinery was auctioned off to the general public realizing $10,100.

Why am I telling you all of this about the Mints? Because, a multitude of change was occurring at this time as the old ways of the First Mint and more advanced technologies of the Second Mint collided. I would guess that "normal" coining operations during this strenuous period were far from routine. I can imagine machinery being dismantled and hauled to the new location, items being boxed up, moved and so forth. No doubt some of the old wornout items were left behind and there was likely (as with any move of this type) an overall confusion at the new Mint perhaps leaving some items packed while others were repacked for a more thorough recheck later. Still, carelessness with the valuable dies used to strike coinage would have been a very abnormal practice, even during unfamiliar daily changes, as the dies were probably the most protected items of all the Mint's possessions. For example, during the years of bouts with Yellow Fever, when the Mint was forced to close, the common practice was to lock the dies in the vault of the First Bank of the United States where they would remain safe while the Mint sat idle. I imagine those same closely watched practices were in effect during the transfer of daily use items and machinery from the First to Second Mint.

So again, my reasons for telling you this first, is to place you in the correct mindset concerning the newly discovered die marriage that I now bring to your attention.

Over the last 35 years in my research and search for die varieties of Capped Bust Half-Dollars, I have, on occasion, picked up a nice Capped Bust Quarter, Dime or Half-Dime whenever the opportunity arose. Recently, while spending a sleepless night playing with some of those popular "baby busties" that I had purchased in the past, I started examining a new 1835 Half Dime that I had purchased just the day before from an area show. Nothing special about this one - just a nice 1835 Half-Dime in VF - with pretty toning. I retrieved my copy of "Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837" by Russ Logan and John McCloskey and quickly attributed it as being a LM-8.1 - Obverse #4 and Reverse DD. Next I checked my pocket inventory sheet and noted I already had the variety, so I then decided to check the grade of my piece using my enlarged scanned computer image set (something I've done out of habit for many years). Normally I use these images for study but also use them in a situation like this when trying to determine which of the two was higher grade and/or more eye pleasing to me. I quickly hit the keys and brought up my earlier 1835 LM-8.1 to the screen. My set piece was a much nicer AU, so I decided to keep it and use the new purchase as "trader bait".

Still, I always do an obverse and reverse scan into the image database first, so I placed the new purchase LM-8.1 on the flatbed scanner and made a quick scan of obverse/reverse and pulled both images to my dual flat screens using Photoshop CS2. Hmmmmmmm . . .

Apparently, I had misattributed my earlier piece, because what I was viewing was not an LM-8.1 like the one I had just acquired. It was quite obvious with both of them side by side, each the size of a small dinner plate, on two large computer screens. The obverse was a quick match being Obverse #4 but the reverse was quite different. My interest now heightened, I reopened the Half-Dime book and went through the other three "small date" reverses of LM-9, LM-10 and LM-11. No match. In fact, once I dug into it, nothing appeared even remotely close. How could I have missed this, I thought to myself. It appears that in my earlier shoddy attribution, after having identified Obverse #4, I had simply flipped the half-dime over, noted the I of PLURIBUS in relation to the A's right foot in STATES, directly above, and never checked anything further. After all there were no known scarce or rare pieces among the 1835 small dates, save for the scarce R4, LM-11 with the I of PLURIBUS pretty much centered beneath A of STATES. BIG MISTAKE!

A few minutes later I had both pieces under the stereomicroscope. (Keep in mind that it is now 3 a.m. and my wife still loves me!). Unlike the reverse of LM-8.1 this reverse showed the second S of STATES was pretty much equal distance and centered over the opening of the scroll between the S and U of PLURIBUS UNUM. I started making further comparisons and writing down notes on those findings. Longer more slender arrowheads and the top arrowshaft visually appears longer. Top section of E (from center bar up) of E PLURIBUS shows this area chipped out of the die (actually the raised piece in this area of the incuse lettering of the scroll). On the DD reverse of 1835 the tip of the olive stem just makes it over the C serif in the denomination. On this piece the serif of the C is past the end of stem. The left wing, where it meets junction of the leg of the Eagle, shows a double feather "hump" up from the leg, whereas the DD reverse shows a smooth single transition. Lastly, while the wings themselves are narrower, giving the Eagle a scrawny appearance, and all the while keeping in mind that the entire design was lapped, the feather pattern does not fit the other small date reverse hub style.

Knowing that the date on the coin does not necessarily mean that the coin was actually STRUCK in that year, I jumped back to the 1834 reverses and then ahead to the 1836 reverses. When I hit the JJ reverse of 1836 I was 98% sure I had a match. I sent the enlarged images and my notes out to friends/fellow researchers Brad Karoleff, Glenn

Peterson and Stephen Crain for confirmation on what I was seeing (after all, at 3 a.m. in the morning you never know!).

Meanwhile, while awaiting feedback, I weighed the new 1835 die marriage to rule out a fabrication, and the weight was correct for the half-dimes of this period. I printed out a large image of the new reverse and the dentil count showed 179 of the narrow style dentils. Initially, I could not see every dentil but using Photoshop CS2 I did a large see through overlay and placed it above an enlarged 1836 JJ reverse image. Every dentil matched perfectly (as it should) and then I could count out the rest without problem. Diameter was also correct for the JJ reverse of 1836. I tried to count the reeds but failed after 3 attempts. Then I noticed that Russ Logan and John McCloskey had mentioned there were two collar dies used with 97 and 98 reeds respectively. The 1836 LM-7 marriage (JJ reverse) shows 98 reeds and that collar was believed to be terminated with this marriage – where it was nearly worn smooth – hence my inabilities to successfully do a reed count! Also noted was that a new C punch was used on the JJ reverse, identifiable by the broken top C (as seen on the new LM-12) and believed to have never been used again in the series. This broken C clinched it for me and now I'm happy to report that we have a new die marriage for 1835 Capped Bust Half-Dimes.

THE EMMISSION ORDER OF THE DIES

There are many known examples of the Capped Bust Half Dime series, where obverse dated dies were used in years after the date that appeared on the coins. This was likely due to coinage demand and the above-mentioned chaotic transition between the First and Second U.S. Mints. Therefore, determining Emission order of dies used cannot be 100% accurate solely based on the "year dated". So, my next challenge was to figure out if the new die marriage was actually struck in 1835 or 1836.

In 1836, LM-6 (Obverse #4, Reverse JJ) shows the first use of the JJ reverse die. This was determined by viewing my 1836 LM-6 (a VF/EF piece) as well as the example pictured in the Half Dime Book.

On this first usage, the E of E PLURIBUS UNUM within the scroll shows the top inner section of the E still intact (without the die chip-out). At some point, after an undetermined amount of 1836 LM-6's were struck, the JJ reverse die was removed from the press and heavily lapped.

Next, the reverse was mated with a different 1836 dated obverse, but this time it was not

Obverse #4 of 1836, from the earlier paring, but instead paired with the already well used Obverse #3 of 1836 (LM-7, R4). This pairing shows the chipped out E of E PLURIBUS as well (perhaps a result of the earlier lapping process?). (As a side note, the 1836 LM7 marriage was unknown to Valentine in 1931 but was described in the 1975 reprint.) It was during this time/pairing the JJ reverse developed a further light die crack from rim to left upright of M and another from the tip of the right wing through the arrow shafts.



1835 LM-12 Obverse #4 Discovery Piece

After an undetermined number of strikes this reverse was again pulled and taken for refinishing. But when they lapped it this time – it was even more extreme. This gave the JJ reverse a much cleaner overall appearance, as the lettering appears sharper with much less microscopic cutting around the individual letters. But it shallowed out the entire lettering and Eagle device design. As a result of this, there was a "thinning" of the scroll due to the extreme lapping process where the lower and upper edge of the scroll now appears closer to the tops of the lettering of E PLURIBUS UNUM. In fact, the scroll piece directly below the second U of PLURIBUS is nothing more than a segmented raised hairline instead of being a solid line. The arrow feathers of the lowest arrow are now barely visible, with most of the lower feathers directly above the flag of the 5 "floating" as small raised blobs in the field. The Eagle has entirely lost its tongue. The dentils visually appear mushy. The lowest pair of olive leaves is detached from the olive stem and the lowest berry is also detached from the stem.

Following this extreme lapping process, the JJ reverse was once again returned to the press but this time it was paired with Obverse #4, dated 1835 (Small Date) creating the new (LM-12) die marriage being discussed here. The new marriage displays the top section of E of E PLURIBUS already chipped out like the LM-7 of 1836 (same reverse JJ). After an undetermined number of the new LM-12's were struck, the JJ reverse was retired and never used again.



1835 LM-12 Reverse JJ Discovery Piece

Note* The only die crack partially visible on the new 1835 Discovery Piece is a single, very light crack developing from the top of A in AMERICA to rim. ALL OTHER HAIRLINE CRACKS WERE LAPPED OUT!



New Die Marriage of 1835 Capped Bust Half-Dime Discovered

1833 -1836 EXPERIMENTS AT THE MINT

Through a study of the Capped Bust silver coinage the years of 1833 (when the new Second Mint was finished) through 1836 show us that many experiments were taking place with all denominations.

For example, in the Capped Bust Half-Dollar series the 1834 Abominable Bastards (O-116, O-114 and O-113 respectively) first come to my mind and, of course the Crushed Lettered Edge (CLE) half-dollars, which the BHNC designated as 1833, (O-116), 1834, (O-122) and 1835, (O-111) have to be right up there in the experimentation. All of the CLE's are presently thought to have been struck in 1836. These rare pieces display a beaded boarder with raised rim (having been struck in a closed-type collar) and are different from normal Capped Bust Halves with dentilated borders. The only exception being that the reverse beaded border (used for all the CLE's) was later used (in 1836) for general production when it was paired with a regular dentilated obverse of that year (Overton's Obverse #4) to produce O-106. Then too there is another CLE rumored to be in existence dated 1836 and listed in the 1954 Davis –Graves Stack's Sale as Lot 533. Current whereabouts of this 1836-dated coin are unknown.

The Capped Bust Quarters of 1833 and 1834 show experimentation -one marriage of each of 1833 (B2) and 1834 (B1) - in the form of double vertical lines on the shield as opposed to the normal triple vertical shield lines displayed on "normal" reverses.

Interestingly, in "The Dime Book," the authors noted that the emission sequence suggests that many of the dime varieties bearing the date 1835 were struck in 1836 and even 1837. Punch style and punch size were the big experimentation features with the dimes during this period. But also, there was another even more interesting feature; starting in 1836 a significant change was made in the dentilation where the beads were replaced in favor of a new design with long narrow dentilation similar to dime pieces struck prior to 1828 in an open collar.

And now we arrive at the Capped Bust Half Dimes for this period . . .



Broken C - Lapped Lower Arrow Feathers - Narrow Dentils

Similar to its larger dime brethren most of the experimentation going on had to do with the punch style variation and punch sizes. However, like the Capped Bust Dimes of 1836, the Half Dimes of 1836 show experimentation with the beaded border being changed to the new narrow elongated dentil design. Of the 11 die marriages plated in the "Half-Dime Book," only 4 Reverses show this feature. Reverse FF with 180 narrow dentils, Reverse GG with 179 narrow dentils, Reverse HH with 174 narrow dentils and the JJ reverse with 179 narrow dentils. All Capped Bust varieties of 1837, save one (LM-4), shows the use of the newer narrow dentil design. This new elongated narrow dentil style was thought to have never been used on Half Dimes dated prior to 1836 – until now.

OTHER NOTABLE OBSERVATIONS NOT MENTIONED IN THE HALF-DIME BOOK

Obverse #4 of 1835:

*** There is a die line from the ball of the 5 in the date to the upright above (similar to the so-called 1822/21 half dollar).

Reverse JJ of 1835:

*** The right serif of M is above the E in AMERICA.

*** The left "uprights" of all three A's are bent.

*** On the heavily lapped reverse of JJ, when used to strike the new LM-12, there is a small spike (graver slip) from the very tip of the right wing. This shows on all three marriages where JJ was used but it is particularly evident of the final use with the new die marriage – probably due to the lapping process making it appear more predominate.

*** The far left claw (your left) is split.

I feel honored to have found this new die marriage and am happy to report it here to you in the JRCS Journal. As a writer/researcher of early Federal coinage, this is the kind of thing we strive for and it makes the hair on the back of our neck stand up! I would ask all Capped

Bust Half Dime enthusiasts to double-check their collections for the new LM-12! Feel free to contact me at: esouders@chartermi.net.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank Brad Karoleff, Dr. Glenn Peterson and Stephen Crain for their verifications of my observations in preparation for this article.

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Jules Reiver's 1796-1797 Draped Bust Half Dollar Varieties

Jon P. Amato, Ph. D.

The Jules Reiver collection of early United States copper and silver coinage, sold by Heritage Auction Galleries in January 2006, was notable for its completeness of varieties and die states. It is unlikely that Mr. Reiver's efforts in this regard will ever be duplicated.

Among the highlights of Jules Reiver's collection were his early half dollars, and the centerpieces of this subset were the Draped Bust Small Eagle halves bearing the dates 1796 and 1797. Mr. Reiver accomplished what most early half dollar enthusiasts can only dream of – to acquire all four varieties of this rare series. Only three other collections holding all four varieties are known to have been sold at public auction. These collections were those of James Brilliant, sold by Bowers and Merena in its January 9-10, 1992 sale; Dennis Heller, sold by New England Rare Coin Auctions in its January 7-9, 1982 Florida United Numismatist sale; and A. C. Gies, sold by Stack's in its October 19, 1940 sale.

In addition to the above collections sold at public auction, a review of the "Pre Turban Half Dollar Census" in the **John Reich Journal** for the years 2004, 1998, 1993, and 1989 indicates that three John Reich Collectors Society members reported ownership of all four 1796-1797 half dollar varieties.

Many early half dollar specialists would undoubtedly like to replicate Jules Reiver's accomplishment and acquire all four varieties of 1796-1797 half dollars. The reality, however, is that few collectors can manage to obtain even one of these coins, let alone all four. This is especially true in the current market, where the price of these coins has risen dramatically over the past few years.

Description of the Reiver 1796-1797 Half Dollar Varieties

I had the pleasure of cataloging numerous coins in Jules Reiver's collection, including all four of his Draped Bust Small Eagle half dollars. Each of these is described below.



Fig. 1. 1796 15 Stars, Overton-101

This coin grades NCS VF Details, Environmental Damage. The diagnostic die crack that extends from the rim at 5 o'clock to Liberty's bust and then through the last three stars is very prominent. Both sides of this specimen display pinkish-gray patination, which is joined on the obverse with streaked lime-green coloration. The NCS "Environmental Damage" disclaimer apparently refers to these streaks that may have been associated with some sort of residue. The surfaces reveal no mentionable abrasions, and are devoid of adjustment marks. Some faint hairlines are visible on the Liberty and eagle motifs. Pedigreed to the C. L. Arnold Collection, Stack's, September 1968 (lot 1117), $3,000; Jules Reiver, Heritage, January 2006 (lot 22512), $63,250 (including B.P.).



Fig. 2. 1796 16 Stars, Overton-102

NGC grades this coin VG 8. The usually seen die crack that extends from the rim through the first four stars is clearly evident. The later die state of the coin is evidenced by an additional heavy crack from the lower part of star 1 to the rim, and another lighter crack extending from a break in the lower right point of star 2. Another faint crack is located beneath the heavier crack that connects stars 2 and 3.

Both sides display pleasing natural gray toning, with the devices being a shade lighter. The design elements reveal strong detail for the grade, particularly in the middle and lower parts of Liberty's hair. A minute J-shaped mark on Liberty's temple identifies the coin.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, September 1983; Jules Reiver, Heritage, January 2006 (lot 22513), $46,000 (including B.P.).



Fig. 3. 1797, Overton-101

This NCS specimen grades XF Details, Obverse Graffiti. It exhibits light gray, mauve, and rose-gold toning. The design elements are strongly defined, and are well centered on the planchet. Faint hairlines are visible, as are a series of pinscratches located in the left obverse field. The latter account for the NCS disclaimer.

Pedigreed to Paramount, March 1969, (lot 2638); Jules Reiver, Heritage, January 2006 (lot 22514), $69,000 (including B.P.).

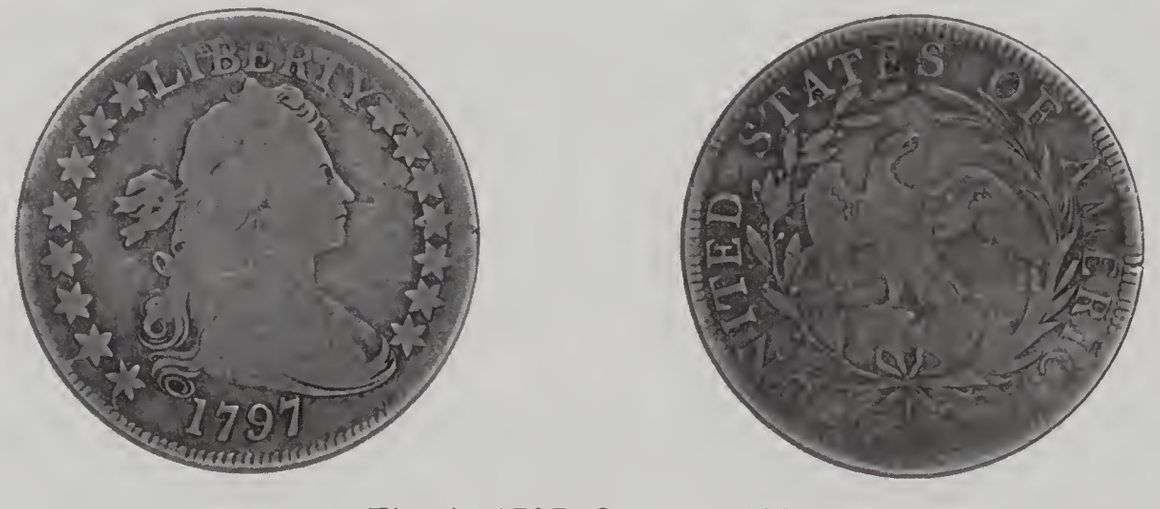


Fig. 4. 1797, Overton-102

NGC assigns a VG 10 grade to this coin. The 1797 O-102 variety is distinguished from O-101 by a slightly different alignment of the reverse wreath vis-à-vis the peripheral lettering. Also, the diagnostic crack from the milling through star 2 to Liberty's hair curl is clearly visible.

The original light gray surfaces are remarkably clean for the grade. Liberty and the eagle are fully outlined, and contain a modicum of internal detail. A small, squiggly scrape in the lower right reverse field near the rim identifies the coin.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 1987; Jules Reiver, Heritage, January 2006 (lot 22515), $46,000 (including B.P.).

Acknowledgements

I want to thank my colleagues Mark Van Winkle, Chief Cataloger, and Mark Borckardt, Senior Cataloger, for their review and comments on an earlier draft of this article.

Pre-Turban Bust Half Dollar Census

Stephen J. Herrman

The last Pre-Turban Bust half dollar census for 1794 to 1807 appeared in the January 2004 **John Reich Journal**. The early halves continue to increase in popularity.

During the past several years, three new die marriages have been confirmed: 1807 O.115 in June 2004, 1806 O.129 in October 2005, and 1806 O.130 in February 2007. Thus, there are now 108 known die marriages. Presently, there are three known examples of 1807 O.115. Thus far, 1806 O.129 and 1806 O.130 are unique.

In addition, the Bust Half Nut Club (BHNC) completed its first-ever study of the rarity rating estimates for the Pre-Turban halves, and the rarity ratings were revised for many die marriages. The results of that study were presented at the 2004 ANA convention in Pittsburgh, and were later published in the June 2005 **John Reich Journal**.

The rarity rating estimates used in this census are based on the 2004 BHNC study. It is important to note that the BHNC began including plus and minus designations for the higher rarity levels in 1998 in order to provide a more refined estimate of the availability for each die marriage variety. Unfortunately, the plus and minus designations were not utilized in the 4th edition of *Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836.*

Below is a reference table listing the rarity rating levels used in this census report and the corresponding estimated number of coins known for each level.

Rating	Estimated Number	Rating	Estimated Number
R8	1-3	R5-	64-80
R7+	4-6	R4+	81-120
R7	7-9	R4	121-160
R7-	10-12	R4-	161-200
R6+	13-18	R3+	201-300
R6	19-24	R3	301-500
R6-	25-30	R2	501-1000
R5+	31-46	R1	over 1000
R5	47-63		

Two tables for the Pre-Turban Bust half dollar census are presented on the following pages. The first table is the census of the top 15 collections submitted. Each collection is identified by the submitter's membership number. The second table is the census by grade. Listed are the top 15 coins for each die marriage variety as graded by the submitters.

39 members submitted their inventory listings for inclusion in this census report—a total of 1,445 coins. Thank you to everyone who participated.

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS

Year	Var	R.	007	012	918	182	999	957	692	323	978	945	1086	986	515	049	070	Tot	Avg	Max
1794	101	3+	20	30	55		10	10							15			13	16	55
	102	6+	10	12	15			6										5	10	15
	103	5+	12	12	30				8									5	14	30
	104	5	15		20	3		12	8									6	11	20
	105	5	30	10	35					8						4		7	15	35
	106	6-	15	30	25				10									5	18	30
	107	6	12	10	20	10												5	14	20
	108	7	10		10				15									3	12	15
	109	8																		
	110	7			7													1	7	7
	111	8																		
1795	101	7	45	25	20													3	30	45
	102	4	30	20	45	20	10	12	12									13	16	45
	103	5	20	30	45	25	12	20	15						3			10	23	45
	104	4	30	10	45	15	8	10	20									10	18	45
	105	3+	30	35	45	25		15		15					20	15		15	24	58
	106	6	40	25	25	8	4											6	18	40
	107	5	25	25	35		12	8	15	10			4					10	16	35
	108	4	30	45	40	45												5	33	45
	109	4	20	30	20	20		10		15						10		7	18	30
	110	3	40	25	60	25	20	15	12	10						12		12	23	60
	111	4+	50	15	15	3	20	10		2					15			11	15	50
	112	4	20	15	58	12	12	12		8					12	8		13	20	58
	113	3	25	15	45	8	30	15	12	8	6		4					14	17	45
	114	6	8	25	25	6			5				8					6	13	25
	115	5	30	15	53	20	8			8								6	22	53
	116	4	30	40	53	10	15	25		10			2					8	23	53
	117	4	20	20	58	30	12	8	20									9	26	58
	118	–																		
	119	4	30	25	40	25		20										5	28	40
	120	7-	15	40	30	12												4	24	40
	121	4+	45	25	10	12	12	8	25	8					4			11	15	45
	122	5	30	20	40	25	20	10	15							4		8	21	40
	123	7-	20	30	35													4	24	35
	124	5	10	10	20	30	10	20	20				6					9	15	30
	125	4	35	40	40	25	25	15										7	26	40
	126	4+	30	30	40	10		10		8		8						11	19	40
	127	6+	12	15	20	12	4			12								11	13	20
	128	5+	20	12	15	8	12		10	8								12	12	20
	129	5	55	25	45		15		15						12			8	29	55
	130	5-	20	30	58	30	12	15										7	25	58
	131	4+	30	30	45		25	12	15				2					9	20	45
	132	8																		

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS																				
Year	Var	R.	007	012	918	182	999	957	692	323	978	945	1086	986	515	049	070	Tot	Avg	Max
1796	101	5		60														2	38	60
	102	5+	20	30														3	22	30
1797	101	4+		30														2	25	30
	102	6-	20	30														2	25	30
1801	101	3	25	45	50	12	35	20	20	30	12	20	8	15	12		25	25	23	50
	102	4+	45	50	45	30	30	25	40	20	35			20	35	12		15	31	50
1802	101	3	45	45	53	30	35	20	10	10	35				30	35		23	30	55
1803	101	3	40	45	55	25	40	30	15	15	20	30	15	20	20	12	25	27	26	55
	102	3+	40	40	50	25	45	30	35	15	20	45	45	30		12		20	29	50
	103	3	50	45	53	40	45	45	25	12	35		10	35		15	35	24	31	53
	104	3	40	45	55	40	50	30	30	10	25		15	30	35	20		25	31	55
1805	101	3	50	45	58	25	40	30	25	10		40				15	40	19	31	58
	102	3	45	45	55	45	35	30	20	15	15			12	35	8		16	29	55
	103	5+	20	40	55	10	15	25		10	20	30			35			16	24	55
	104	5-	45	40	58	45	25	15	30	12	35	30			12			19	28	58
	105	5	25	30	45	40	20	20	18	20	30	30					15	16	24	45
	106	3+	50	20	62	45	40	25		30	30			8		15	20	13	30	62
	107	5	40	45	40	30	50	40	20	8	10							12	28	50
	108	4+	40	50	53	30	20	15	15	12	45	40	8	10				15	26	53
	109	4-	30	30	50	45	45	40	20	35	30	20	20	30	35	10		23	28	50
	110	5	40	40	25	25	40	30	35	20	30	40						12	33	45
	111	2	53	60	53	40	40	25	30	12	30	30	20	35	35	15		24	29	60
	112	2	45	50	50	40	50	35	25	35	15	45	30	40				19	32	50
	113	4+	55	50	50	45	35	20	25	35	15	4	25				20	17	29	55
	114	8																		
1806	101	3	45	50	55	40	45	40	15	15	35	30		30	30			20	31	55
	102	3+	55	50	58	40	55	35	25	15	35	10	20	15	20	15		17	33	58
	103	2	58	45	53	40	50	50	35	15	30		10	15	18			31	26	58
	104	4	55	45	55	20	30	12	25	20	30	20	15	8	12	20	40	28	24	55
	105	2	53	50	55	40	45	40	15	20	15	40	10	30		20	40	26	27	55
	106	4	55	45	55	45	45	40	25	25	12	50	12	50		30	30	19	33	55
	107	4+	45	40	40	30	40	30	20	40	35	10			20	30	30	20	28	45
	108	7	12	15														2	14	15
	109	1	50	55	63	45	50	40	35	12	12		20	25	35	12	25	37	31	63
	110	6	45	12	45	15	10	8	12			10						10	23	45
	111	3	63	40	55	45	40	30	20	8	40	25	8		35	15	30	26	29	63
	112	4	40	40	50	30	20	15	25	15	20		6		35	12	35	20	27	50
	113	5	30	25	35	40	12		45	30	15	25						10	28	45
	114	4	45	55	62	45	50	20	20	30	40	40		25	20		30	22	34	62
	115	1	45	45	58	45	40	30	25	12	12				20	15	45	25	29	58
	116	3	45	60	53	50	35	50	30	15	30		12	20			20	21	31	60
	117	5-	58	45	45	30	25	40	20	8	30	20	10					17	24	58
	118	3	60	45	58	30	40	45		12	10	20		30	20	20	40	17	29	60

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS																				
Year	Var	R.	007	012	918	182	999	957	692	323	978	945	1086	986	515	049	070	Tot	Avg	Max
1806	119	3	45	50	58	40	40	35	30	8	20	30		25			40	19	31	58
	120	3	45	65	63	45	45	35		15	30	8	15	30	20		25	39	31	65
	121	4	40	45	63	45	40	20	25	8	35	50	25	6			20	19	35	63
	122	6+	20	22	8	20			20	20	8							8	16	22
	123	5-	50	50	62	50	30		35	20	15	20						14	36	62
	124	6	45	40	35	25	20	20		12	8				15		15	11	23	45
	125	5	35	50	58	25	25	20	20	12	15	25				25	15	14	27	58
	126	7	50	15	20	10					15						25	8	20	50
	127	7	20	20	10			3									12	6	13	20
	128	8	20															1	20	20
	129	8																		
	130	8																		
1807	101	5	50	40	53	30	45	20	15	8	15	40		20				16	27	53
	102	2	45	55	62	55	30	50	30	20	35		8	30	15			29	27	62
	103	3	55	45	55	30	40	35	15	8	25	35	4	4			50	20	29	55
	104	5-	40	30	53	40	45	40	15		40	50			15		25	17	33	53
	105	1	58	40	62	50	40	30	20	20	15		10	40		12	25	46	28	62
	106	3	45	40	61	50	55	35	35	8	20	40	15	15				19	29	61
	107	4+	45	50	55	40	35	8	30	12	15		15					16	28	55
	108	3	50	45	58	30	50	45	25	15	12		20	20			35	19	27	58
	109	3	40	50	45	50	25	30	12	4	35	50	10	10		15		25	22	50
	110	2	55	50	63	30	30	30	40	15	35	25	25	30	30	15	40	27	33	63
	115	8	30															1	30	30
Total VARS			99	97	95	82	75	75	67	66	54	37	36	33	33	31	30	1445	26.4	
Avg Grade			36	35	44	30	30	24	22	15	24	29	14	23	22	15	29			



1805/4 0101 Draped Bust Half Dollar

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS BY GRADE																				
Year	Var	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Tot	Avg	Max
1794	101	3+	55	30	20	15	15	15	12	10	10	10	8	8	4			13	16	55
	102	6+	15	12	10	8	6											5	10	15
	103	5+	30	12	12	8	8											5	14	30
	104	5	20	15	12	8	6	3										6	11	20
	105	5	35	30	15	10	8	4	4									7	15	35
	106	6-	30	25	15	12	10											5	18	30
	107	6	20	18	12	10	10											5	14	20
	108	7	15	10	10													3	12	15
	109	8																		
	110	7	7															1	7	7
	111	8																		
1795	101	7	45	25	20													3	30	45
	102	4	45	30	20	20	15	15	15	12	12	10	8	4	4			13	16	45
	103	5	45	45	30	25	20	20	15	12	10	3						10	23	45
	104	4	45	30	20	20	15	12	12	10	10	8						10	18	45
	105	3+	58	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	15	15	15	12	12	12	12	15	24	58
	106	6	40	25	25	8	8	4										6	18	40
	107	5	35	25	25	15	12	12	10	10	8	4						10	16	35
	108	4	45	45	40	30	3											5	33	45
	109	4	30	20	20	20	15	10	10									7	18	30
	110	3	60	40	40	25	25	20	15	12	12	10	8	8				12	23	60
	111	4+	50	25	20	15	15	15	10	10	3	3	2					11	15	50
	112	4	58	40	25	25	20	15	12	12	12	12	8	8	8			13	20	58
	113	3	45	35	30	25	15	15	15	12	12	8	8	8	6	4		14	17	45
	114	6	25	25	8	8	6	5										6	13	25
	115	5	53	30	20	15	8	8										6	22	53
	116	4	53	40	30	25	15	10	10	2								8	23	53
	117	4	58	35	30	30	20	20	20	12	8							9	26	58
	118	–																		
	119	4	40	30	25	25	20											5	28	40
	120	7-	40	30	15	12												4	24	40
	121	4+	45	25	25	12	12	10	10	8	8	6	4					11	15	45
	122	5	40	30	25	20	20	15	10	4								8	21	40
	123	7-	35	30	20	10												4	24	35
	124	5	30	20	20	20	10	10	10	8	6							9	15	30
	125	4	40	40	35	25	25	15	3									7	26	40
	126	4+	40	30	30	30	18	15	12	10	10	8	8					11	19	40
	127	6+	20	15	15	15	15	12	12	12	12	10	4					11	13	20
	128	5+	20	15	15	12	12	12	12	10	10	8	8	8				12	12	20
	129	5	55	45	45	25	20	15	15	12								8	29	55
	130	5-	58	30	30	20	15	12	12									7	25	58
	131	4+	45	30	30	25	15	15	12	4	2							9	20	45
	132	8																		
1796	101	5	60	15														2	38	60
	102	5+	30	20	15													3	22	30

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS BY GRADE																				
Year	Var	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Tot	Avg	Max
1797	101	4+	30	20														2	25	30
	102	6-	30	20														2	25	30
1801	101	3	50	48	45	45	40	35	30	30	25	25	20	20	20	20	15	25	23	50
	102	4+	50	45	45	40	35	35	35	30	30	25	25	20	20	15	12	15	31	50
1802	101	3	55	53	48	45	45	45	45	35	35	35	35	30	30	30	30	23	30	55
1803	101	3	55	50	45	45	40	40	35	30	30	30	30	30	25	25	25	27	26	55
	102	3+	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	25	25	20	15	20	29	50
	103	3	53	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	30	30	25	24	31	53
	104	3	55	50	50	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	30	25	31	55
1805	101	3	58	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	25	25	25	20	19	31	58
	102	3	55	45	45	45	45	35	35	30	30	20	20	15	15	15	12	16	29	55
	103	5+	55	40	35	35	35	30	25	20	20	15	15	12	12	10	10	16	24	55
	104	5-	58	45	45	45	40	40	35	30	30	25	20	20	20	15	15	19	28	58
	105	5	45	45	40	30	30	30	25	20	20	20	18	15	15	10	8	16	24	45
	106	3+	62	50	45	40	30	30	30	25	20	20	15	15	8			13	30	62
	107	5	50	45	40	40	40	30	25	20	20	12	10	8				12	28	50
	108	4+	53	50	45	40	40	30	25	20	15	15	12	12	10	10	8	15	26	53
	109	4-	50	45	45	40	40	35	35	35	35	30	30	30	30	25	20	23	28	50
	110	5	45	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	25	25	20	20				12	33	45
	111	2	60	53	53	40	40	40	35	35	35	30	30	30	25	25	20	24	29	60
	112	2	50	50	50	45	45	40	40	35	35	35	30	30	30	25	20	19	32	50
	113	4+	55	50	50	45	45	35	35	25	25	25	20	20	20	15	15	17	29	55
	114	8																		
1806	101	3	55	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	30	20	15	20	31	55
	102	3+	58	55	55	50	50	40	35	35	35	25	20	20	20	15	15	17	33	58
	103	2	58	53	53	50	50	45	40	40	35	35	35	30	30	20	20	31	26	58
	104	4	55	55	45	45	40	35	35	30	30	30	25	20	20	20	20	28	24	55
	105	2	55	53	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	30	30	25	20	20	20	26	27	55
	106	4	55	55	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	30	30	30	25	25	12	19	33	55
	107	4+	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	30	30	30	25	20	20	28	45
	108	7	15	12														2	14	15
	109	1	63	58	55	50	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	37	31	63
	110	6	45	45	35	35	15	12	12	10	10	8						10	23	45
	111	3	63	55	45	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	25	25	26	29	63
	112	4	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	25	20	20	20	15	15	20	27	50
	113	5	45	40	35	30	30	25	25	20	15	12						10	28	45
	114	4	62	55	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	22	34	62
	115	1	58	58	50	45	45	45	45	45	40	35	30	25	25	20	20	25	29	58
	116	3	60	53	50	50	50	45	40	35	30	30	30	30	20	20	20	21	31	60
	117	5-	58	45	45	40	30	30	25	20	20	20	15	15	12	10	8	17	24	58
	118	3	60	58	45	45	40	40	30	30	25	20	20	20	15	12	10	17	29	60
	119	3	58	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	25	20	20	20	19	31	58
	120	3	65	63	55	55	55	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	35	39	31	65
	121	4	63	55	53	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	25	25	19	35	63
	122	6+	22	20	20	20	20	10	8	8								8	16	22

PRE-TURBAN HALF DOLLAR CENSUS BY GRADE																				
Year	Var	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Tot	Avg	Max
1806	123	5-	62	60	50	50	50	40	40	35	30	25	20	20	15	8		14	36	62
	124	6	45	40	35	25	20	20	15	15	15	12	8					11	23	45
	125	5	58	50	40	35	25	25	25	25	20	20	15	15	12	12		14	27	58
	126	7	50	25	20	15	15	15	10	10								8	20	50
	127	7	20	20	12	12	10	3										6	13	20
	128	8	20															1	20	20
	129	8																		
	130	8																		
1807	101	5	53	50	50	45	40	40	30	20	20	20	15	15	12	12	8	16	27	53
	102	2	62	55	55	50	50	50	45	45	35	30	30	30	30	25	20	29	27	62
	103	3	55	55	53	50	45	45	40	35	35	30	25	25	20	20	15	20	29	55
	104	5-	53	50	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	25	20	15	17	33	53
	105	1	62	58	55	55	50	50	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	46	28	62
	106	3	61	55	50	50	45	40	40	35	35	20	20	20	15	15	12	19	29	61
	107	4+	55	50	45	40	40	35	30	30	20	20	15	15	15	12	12	16	28	55
	108	3	58	50	50	45	45	35	30	30	25	25	20	20	20	15	15	19	27	58
	109	3	50	50	50	45	40	35	35	30	25	20	20	20	15	15	15	25	22	50
	110	2	63	55	55	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	27	33	63
	115	8	30															1	30	30
Total VARS			102	99	95	92	90	84	79	75	70	67	62	57	53	49	46	1445	26.4	
Avg Grade			47	39	36	33	30	29	28	26	25	23	22	23	21	20	19			

CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR COLLECTORS

The Capped Bust Half Dollar Census for R4 to R8 varieties is next. Please refer to the table below for the R4 and better varieties to be included.

The top 15 collections shall be identified by membership number only. Duplicates will be counted and reported as part of the totals. Your personal census will be kept strictly confidential, and shall not used for any other purpose.

Please email your complete inventory listing (including duplicates) of R4 to R8 varieties, and/or any questions, to Steve Herrman at: Herrman102@aol.com.

Send any written correspondence to the editor at: Capped Bust Half Dollar Census, c/o JRCS, P.O. Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030.

Year	Var	R.
1807	111	4+
1808	110	4+
1809	101	5
1809	104	5-
1809	108	4
1809	110	4+
1809	112	5-
1809	113	5
1809	114	5
1811	102	4
1811	107	4
1811	112	4-
1811	113	5
1812	101	5-
1813	102	4
1813	104	4
1814	106	4+
1817	102	7
1817	104	6
1817	105	4-
1817	108	4
1818	110	4
1818	115	4+
1819	103	4
1819	106	4
1820	104	4+
1820	107	5
1822	102	4+
1822	103	5-
1822	112	4
1823	102	4
1823	109	5+
1823	113	7
1824	102	5+
1824	112	4
1824	114	5-
1825	103	4-
1825	104	4+
1825	109	5
1825	117	4
1825	118	8
1826	103	5-
1826	114	4+
1826	115	5-
1826	119	4-
1826	120	4-
1827	103	4
1827	108	4-
1827	109	4-
1827	110	4-
1827	111	4
1827	113	4-
1827	116	4+
1827	122	5
1827	123	5-
1827	124	5+
1827	127	5
1827	128	4-
1827	129	4-
1827	133	4
1827	134	4
1827	136	4
1827	137	6
1827	138	4
1827	139	4-
1827	140	4+
1827	144	5+
1827	145	5
1827	147	4
1827	148	6+
1827	149	8
1828	105	5
1828	106	4+
1828	111	4
1828	123	5+
1829	106	5-
1829	109	4+
1829	118	4+
1829	120	8
1830	105	4
1830	112	4+
1830	114	5
1831	113	4
1831	115	4
1831	117	4
1831	120	6
1832	109	4
1832	114	4+
1832	117	4+
1832	119	4-
1832	123	7
1833	111	4+
1833	115	5+
1833	116	7
1834	118	4
1834	119	4
1834	120	4
1834	122	7
1835	111	8
1836	103	4-
1836	105	4-
1836	107	4
1836	120	4-
1836	121	5+
1836	123	4



New Variety 1798 Dollar – "12 Star 1798 Dollar"

W. David Perkins, NLG

This very special issue of the **John Reich Journal** contains articles on the recent discovery of two new die marriages. Most of us can only imagine the excitement that comes along with a discovery of this magnitude.

The *other side of the coin* is reported discoveries that later turned out *not to be* new discoveries, or "only a die state" of a known die marriage. This story is about one case of this, the "12 Star 1798 Dollar!"

In May, 1966 a short article appeared in **The Numismatist** announcing that a new "12 Star" variety of 1798 Dollar had been discovered. It was written by H. N. Shepherd and was titled, "New Variety 1798 Dollar?"

The article begins with

> Probably every numismatist and coin collector dreams of owning a one-of its-kind coin. Unfortunately, this happy experience is withheld from the great majority of collectors but possibly it has happened to me.
>
> Some years ago I purchased a 1798 silver dollar which, upon close examination, appears to be a rarity – a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. This early silver dollar is described, for the most part, on page 35 in Bolender's *The United States Early Silver Dollars* under the B-8 (H-8) heading....

And concludes with,

> What is the value of a one-of-a-kind coin such as this one appears to be? If it is unique, it is more rare than the fabulous 1804 silver dollars. The value of any coin or commodity is measured by the law of supply and demand. The number of collectors of early U.S. silver dollars can never be factually determined but all of them, unquestionable and understandable, would like to have this one in their collections. What is it then worth to them?
>
> In the meantime, for a period of several years, I've had the thrill of my life in owning this singular silver dollar. If others are found, my dream bubble will burst; but regardless of remote possibility, I have been and am blissfully fortunate to have in my possession this 168 year old, beautiful 1798 silver dollar. Time alone will tell if it really is unique.

A couple of years ago I acquired the extensive early dollar correspondence of the Ostheimers, specialist collectors of the early silver dollars by die variety. Mrs. Ostheimer later found another thick folder which I also now have.

Among other items in this folder was series of letters between the Ostheimers, H. N. Shepherd and M. H. Bolender, author of **The United States Early Silver Dollars From 1794 to 1803**, first published in 1950. Also included were prints of the original photos of this

"discovery specimen." Interestingly, the letters are dated starting February 25, 1963 with the last letter being dated August 9, 1964. Thus these letters were written 2-3 years before the discovery was reported in **The Numismatist**!

It appears that the initial discovery was reported to Milferd H. Bolender. In a letter from Shepherd to Bolender dated February 25, 1963, Shepherd writes,

> I am taking the liberty of asking your opinion of a 1798 Silver Dollar, the photographs of both sides which are enclosed....
>
> This particular 1798 Silver Dollar is not listed in your reference book. You will note from the photographs that there are only 12 stars on the obverse- there is a blank space at between 9 and 10 o'clock for the 13th star....

Bolender in a letter to the Ostheimers enclosed a copy of Shepherd's letter, and wrote,

> This dollar was struck from the dies of 1798 B-8, a common variety.

Thus Bolender correctly and immediately attributed the 1798 Dollar as B-8. Bolender classified this specimen as a "freak or a misstrike" in a letter to the Ostheimers dated March 1, 1963.

Mr. Shepherd wrote the Ostheimers on March 16, 1963, noting that he had purchased this coin at an Auction. He mentioned he had gotten the Ostheimers name and address from Bolender. Shepherd enclosed photos of the specimen and offered to forward the coin to the Ostheimers for their opinion.

On March 24, 1963 Mr. Shepherd wrote the Ostheimers,

> Under separate cover, insured, I have forwarded this coin to you. I will greatly value your opinion as to its rarity and grading. Any expense involved in its return, of course, I will be happy to defray. In the meantime, you can imagine my hope that it is indeed a rare coin. Every true Numismatist dreams of the day when such an occasion occurs.
>
> [*Still true today, right Mark and Edgar?!!*!]

In a letter dated May 3, 1963 Shepherd thanked the Ostheimers "for their efforts in classifying the 1798 Silver Dollar with 12 stars on the obverse." He concluded the letter with "This 1798 Silver Dollar, at the present, is not for sale. In the event that it ever is, would you be interested in its purchase?"

A letter dated May 14, 1963 from Shepherd to the Ostheimers described a series of metallurgic tests performed on the coin! Mr. Shepherd worked for the New Jersey Zinc Company and had access to the company's laboratories for these tests. The letter included a long paragraph on some experimental Zinc cents the company made for the mint in 1942! He concluded with, "It is still not for sale but I assure you, if you so desire, you will have first chance at acquiring it."

Over one year later in a letter dated July 19, 1964, Shepherd states,

> I have decided to place the 12 star 1798 Silver Dollar in extra fine condition and which you have examined during 1963 on the market, after having enjoyed it for a period of about three years. As I promised, I offer it to you as you noted in your letter of May 6th, 1963 that you would be interested in its purchase "after spectrographic study." This is the first offer for sale....
>
> On the basis of its rarity, I do believe a price of $1,500 is a reasonable amount to ask for it.

This statement implies that the discovery of this "12 star variety" may have been sometime as early as 1961.

Without doing a lot of research, an EF 1798 Heraldic Eagle Dollar was around $60.00 in 1960 and $200 in 1965, per the Bowers silver book pricing table. Thus the $1,500 asking price was a multiple of between 7.5 and 25 times type price! Historically rare varieties of early dollars at this time realized 2 to 4 times type price, and occasionally as high as 4 to 6 times. The $1,500 asking price for sure represented a substantial premium at the time.

I believe the Ostheimers must have replied as much in a letter to Shepherd dated August 2, 1964. [*The letter of August 2nd was referenced in a Shepherd letter dated August 9, 1964 but no copy was in the file.*] Shepherd writes in his August 9th letter,

> The first fact established is that you are definitely interested in obtaining it, but would like it more reasonably (?) priced. As you are well aware, nearly all Numismatists are excellent "Horse-Traders," and like to negotiate prices. You are I are apparently no exceptions to this.
>
> Secondly – it is true that this dollar is a B-8 variety – early variety also as there is no die break on the reverse, but so far as I know, it is the only one of its kind in the country or the world. That makes this very special. If there were others, it seems to me that they would have been discovered ere (?) this.
>
> Next, if the few 1804 Silver Dollars can bring prices in 5 figures, it does not seem unreasonable to ask $1,500 for this 1798. In point of fact, it could be considered under-priced....

Unfortunately this was the last letter re. this matter in the file. I assume the Ostheimers passed on the coin at this price. I have a record of the Ostheimer collection and the majority of it was sold at public auction in 1968 and 1973-75. I could find no evidence of the Ostheimers having acquired this 12 star 1798 Dollar.

More compelling is the fact that Mr. Shepherd reported this discovery in **The Numismatist** in May 1966. It is a reasonably safe assumption that Shepherd still retained this specimen through at least May 1966. And was still trying to sell it.

Jules Reiver wrote in **Americas Silver Dollars**, the book of the 1993 Coinage of the Americas Conference at the American Numismatic Society (COAC), published October 30, 1993,

> Some nine varieties have been dropped by some collectors over the years. A typical case is the 12 star variety of 1798. Many years ago a Numismatist article described of new variety of 1798 dollar, having only 12 stars on the obverse. Of course I started looking for one. When I found one, it had only 11 stars, so I continued looking. I checked the coin against all of the 1798 varieties, and found that it was B8, a common variety. Continued searching turned up one with 9 stars, one with 10, and finally one with 12 stars.

Jules plated four of these B-8 obverse dies in the COAC book on page 54. I will note that per the photo of Shepherd's coin there is no sign of Star 5 and only 12 stars show. On Jules figure 3d (which I assume is his 12 star specimen) the fifth star is missing, but you can see a partial star 7. Jules later might have called this his "11 ½ star variety." I'm not sure if this specimen was in Jules' collection or that of another collector. In checking the run of five 1798 B-8 Dollars in the Heritage January 2006 sale of the Reiver collection I note there are eleven, nine and one half and eight star examples. I guess it all depends on "how you count them!" Jules 1798 B-8 Dollars can be found in the Heritage archive site if you are interested in further study (Lots 23504-23508).

Shepherd should get some of the credit for discovering an interesting die state, but it appears for over five years he believed he had a major rarity. In this case years later Jules Reiver *did his homework* by simply looking for another one. Thus Jules should get the credit for pointing out the different star variations on the 1798 B-8 Dollar.

The different die states and "star counts" of the 1798 B-8 Dollar would make a great subject for further study. 1798 B-8, although relative common as a die marriage, is found in many different states of the dies – die breaks and die clashing abound in addition to the different star counts! The author has two specimens of the 1798 B-8 Dollar in his collection, one of which might qualify as a "12 star variety." [*I'll reluctantly sell this specimen if someone wants to pay me close to today's 1804 Dollar money*!] It is interesting to contrast the author's specimen with the Shepherd Specimen – note the author's "12 star" specimen is struck from a much later die state, with many reverse die breaks and extensive die clashing present. This leads to a number of questions. What caused different stars to not strike up? Is there a logical die progression based on how the left stars struck up, or were the different strikings "random" for some reason? Were die cracks and clash marks lapped at certain points in the die's life? Was there a die remarriage at some point?

I have included a copy of the original photo of H. N. Shepherd's "Discovery Specimen" for the 12 star 1798 Dollar. One can only wonder if *this special coin remains with Shepherd or his family to this day, still waiting for this extreme rarity to be appreciated (financially).*



Shepherd 1798 Dollar Specimen
Obverse – 2229 on back of small photo.

Obverse of Shepherd 1798 B-8 Dollar. No sign of Star 5, thus Shepherd called this the "12 Star Variety."



Shepherd 1798 Dollar Specimen
Reverse – 2230 on back of small photo.

Reverse of Shepherd 1798 B-8 Dollar. This appears to be struck from an earlier die state than the author's specimen.



1798 B-8 Dollar
Obverse – Perkins.

Obverse of 1798 B-8 Dollar from the author's collection. Star 5 is only faintly visible.



1798 B-8 Dollar Reverse – Perkins.

Reverse of 1798 B-8 Dollar from the author's collection. This appears to be struck from a later die state than the Shepherd specimen. Note the die cracks through ES OF AMER. These do not show on the Shepherd specimen photo.



1798 B-8 Obverse – Reiver 11 Stars.

Obverse of Jules Reiver "11 Star" 1798 B-8 Dollar. Photo courtesy of Heritage Archives.

1798 B-8 Obverse – Reiver 9 ½ Stars.

Photo of Jules Reiver "9 ½ Star" 1798 B-8 Dollar. Photo courtesy of Heritage Archives.





1798 B-8 Obverse – Reiver 8 Stars.

Photo of what Jules Reiver called his "8 Star" 1798 B-8 Dollar. Photo courtesy of Heritage Archives.

1806 Half Dollar Trial Sequence

Mark Borckardt

A "Trial List" was the name giving by some earlier numismatic authors who prepared listings of known varieties for a given series. It was called a "Trial List" because the author knew that more varieties would be discovered, thus didn't want to give the impression that his or her listing was complete. Similarly, this article is titled a "Trial Sequence" as the author is certain that it is not completely accurate.

Constructing an emission sequence for any date of early half dollars (or any other denomination of early coins) is nearly impossible. There are certainly no Mint records that provide a detailed accounting of die use, thus our only resource is the coins that still exist today. There are currently 30 different die varieties known for 1806, and these varieties were produced from various combinations of 13 obverse dies and 21 reverse dies. The 30 varieties were coined in five different interconnected sequences.

The first of these sequences consists of but one variety, O-104. We place this variety first in the emission sequence because both the obverse die and the reverse die were previously used in 1805. The obverse die was first used for 1805 O-105 and O-106, then the die was altered by punching a 6 over the 5. Earlier, the reverse die was used for 1805 O-102, O-108, O-110, and O-114. Because the reverse develops rim breaks in its latest state of 1806 O-104b, we are certain that the 1805 varieties were struck first, and they were probably all struck in 1805. Experiments took place in the Mint in early 1806 that did not occur at other times. Quarters, half dollars, and quarter eagles dated 1806 are all known with an 1806/5 overdate, and each of these three overdate varieties are from previously used obverse dies dated 1805. Normal Mint practice dictated that "work-hardened" dies became too brittle for reengraving, thus they were simply reused in the following years without any change. Nearly all other overdate varieties are from dies that had not previously been used to strike coins.

The next sequence are the Overdate and Knobbed 6 varieties, placed in second position partly due to numismatic tradition of recording overdates first, and partly because of the Knobbed 6 date style that is shared with O-104. Obverse 1 is an 1806/5 overdate that was prepared in 1805, but not used, thus it was repunched for use in 1806. The Overton sequence of O-101, O-102, and O-103 for this obverse appears to be correct, based on recorded die states. After these three varieties were coined, Reverse B of O-102 was put back in service for O-105 and O-106, and finally Obverse 4 of O-106 continued in use for O-107 and O-108.

The third sequence begins the Pointed 6 varieties with a short run of two varieties, O-125 and O-109. Obverse 5 was used for both, and O-125 was clearly struck first as the obverse is in an earlier die state. This sequence is not necessarily the first that was actually coined. In this sequence it is placed first on the strength of the "No Stem" reverse of O-109 and the similar "No Stem" reverse of the O-108 Knobbed 6 variety, even though they are actually two different dies.

The fourth sequence includes five varieties that were produced from two reverse dies. This sequence includes the 1806 over Inverted 6 varieties. The emission sequence for this group is relatively straight-forward, based on die states: O-127, O-110, O-111, O-112, and O-113. Each of these four groups have yielded few problems in determining the sequence, although

it is not known in what order these four groups appeared. Not only is the order of striking for individual groups important, but the emission sequence of the groups themselves must also be determined. Some JRCS members are studying edges on the early half dollars, and this study will hopefully reveal the actual order that each of the five interconnected groups of varieties appeared.

The final group provides several ordering problems. Just four obverse dies were combined with 11 reverse dies for the production of 15 different varieties. The first step is to examine the different obverse dies, and determine the sequence of varieties for each. Obverse 9 was used for O-114, O-115, O-116, and O-117, with Overton presented the proper order for these four varieties. Obverse 10 actually outlasted six different reverse dies in approximately the following order: O-126, O-122, O-118, O-119, O-120, and O-121. Next was Obverse 11 that was used with four different reverse dies to produce O-130, O-123, O-124, and O-128, perhaps in that order. Finally, obverse 13 appeared only on O-129, and the unique survivor of this die pair is low grade and damaged.

As O-130 is from the same reverse die as O-115, but in a later die state, the Obverse 11 grouping apparently appeared after Obverse 9. However, the plates in Overton suggest that the reverse of O-128 (11-L) is an earlier state than O-116 (9-L), suggesting that Obverse 11 appeared before Obverse 9. A shared reverse (M) appeared with both Obverse 9 and Obverse 10, yet the order of O-117 (9-M) and O-121 (10-M) is also not immediately obvious. Since O-121 is last in the Obverse 10 group, it seems reasonable that this group of six varieties were produced before Obverse 9. Again, the study of edges may be highly beneficial.

After considering only this preliminary evidence, the following is a "Trial Sequence" for the 1806 Half Dollars. Obverse and reverse designations (such as 2-D) utilize the obverse and reverse labels given by Overton.

Group I	**Group III**	**Group V**
O-104 (2-D)	O-125 (5-T)	O-126 (10-U)
	O-109 (5-G)	O-122 (10-R)
		O-118 (10-N)
		O-119 (10-O)
		O-120 (10-P)
Group II	**Group IV**	O-121 (10-M)
O-101 (1-A)	O-127 (12-H)	O-114 (9-J)
O-102 (1-B)	O-110 (6-H)	O-115 (9-K)
O-103 (1-C)	O-111 (7-H)	O-116 (9-L)
O-105 (3-B)	O-112 (7-I)	O-117 (9-M)
O-106 (4-B)	O-113 (8-I)	O-130 (11-K)
O-107 (4-E)		O-123 (11-Q)
O-108 (4-F)		O-124 (11-S)
		O-128 (11-L)
		O-129 (13-L)

1806 Half Dollar Conversion Chart

Beistle	First Ed	Revised Ed	Supplement	Third Ed	Fourth Ed	Herrman
1929	**1967**	**1970**	**1987**	**1990**	**2005**	**2006**
10-P	1, 2	101	101	101	101	101
---	---	101a	101a	101a	101a	101a
10a-Qa	3, 4	102	102	102	102	102
10-R, 10b-R	5	103	103	103	103	103
10b-Ra	6	---	---	103a	103a	103a
---	---	---	---	---	---	104’
11-S, 11a-Sa	7, 8	104	104	104	104	104
11b-Sb	9	104a	104a	104a	104a	104a
---	---	---	---	104b	104b	104b
12-T	10	105	105	105	105	105
---	11	---	---	105a	105a	105a
---	12	106	106	106	106	106
13-U	13, 14	107	107	107	107	107
---	---	---	---	107a	107a	107a
---	15	108	108	108	108	108
1-A, 1a-Aa, 1b-Ab, 1c-Ab	16, 17, 18	109	109	109	109	109
---	19	109a	109a	109a	109a	109a
---	20	110	110	110	110	110
2-B	21	111	111	111	111	111
---	22	---	---	111a	111a	111a
2a-C	23	112	112	112	112	112
5-Ca	24	113	113	113	113	113
---	---	---	---	114	114	114
3-D	25	114	114	114a	114a	114a
3a-E	26, 27, 28, 29	115	115	115	115	115
3b-Ea*	30	115a	115a	115a	115a	115a
---	---	---	---	---	---	116’
7-F	31	116	116	116	116	116
7a-G	32	117	117	117	117	117
4-H	33	118	118	118	118	118
4a-Ha	34	118a	118a	118a	118a	118a
4a-J	35	119	119	119	119	119
4a-Ja, 4a-Jb	36	---	---	119a	119a	119a
4a-K, 4b-Ka	37, 38	120	120	120	120	120
4b-Kb	39	120a	120a	120a	120a	120a

Beistle	First Ed	Revised Ed	Supplement	Third Ed	Fourth Ed	Herrman
---	---	---	---	---	---	120a**
4-Ga	40	121	121	121	121	121
---	---	122	122	122	122	122
---	---	---	---	---	---	123’
---	41	123	123	123	123	123
6-L	---	124	124	124	124	124
---	---	125	125	125	125	125
---	---	---	---	125a	125a	125a
---	---	---	126	126	126	126
---	---	---	---	127	127	127
---	---	---	127	127a	127a	127a
---	---	---	---	---	128	128
---	---	---	---	---	129	129
---	---	---	---	---	---	[130]

* Beistle incorrectly labeled the reverse as Ae.

** Herrman distinguishes two states of O-120a, with the broken shield, and with all additional breaks.



1806 0115 Draped Bust Half Dollar

Emission Sequence for 1805 Half Dollars

Brad Higgins

What follows is an effort to determine the emission sequence for 1805 half dollars, based upon the model developed by Ivan Leaman and Don Gunnet. Thus far, it is based only on die linkage and visual observation, as my collection is missing several die marriages, and raw examples are not currently available for study. All die marriages in 1805 are die linked, meaning that one or both dies are shared with at least one other die marriage. This makes it possible to compare die states to determine which was struck first, providing that some sort of die failure is visible to track die wear.

Looking at the first chart, all 14 die marriages of 1805 halves are listed, along with obverse and reverse die numbers (letters used for reverse dies) assigned by Al Overton and Don Parsley, and as listed in the 3rd edition of **"Early Half Dollar Die Varieties, 1794-1836"**. Everything appears neat and sequential, but looking at the coins, it is clear that they weren't minted in the order listed. The first issue arises with Rev. C, where O.103 has a heavier reverse crack above TATE than O.104. After examining all 14 die marriages, it is clear that there are many inconsistencies in the flow chart, and the die marriages couldn't have been struck in the order listed in Overton. How do we go about solving the puzzle of emission sequence?

First, the most obvious tool is to compare multi-use dies and determine which was used first by looking for evidence of die wear, such as cracks, cuds, clash marks, and sharpness of detail. The second chart lists a more orderly flow, with the first use of a die causing a change in listing order if necessary, the second use also causing a change, until all multi-use combinations are accounted for. But does this necessarily result in the correct sequence of the die marriages? Not necessarily. For instance, O.107 has two dies in their first use, and it could have been struck at any point in the year. Was it the first half struck in 1805? It is possible. Were O.104, 103, and 105 struck after O.101 and O.102? They could have been struck after O.101, but before O.102. What about O.113, 112, 111, and 110? All we can tell for certain is that they were struck after O.101 and O.102. Were they struck sequentially, or was O.107 struck somewhere in between? So many possibilities present themselves, we clearly haven't finished unraveling the problem. What to do?

Leaman and Gunnet used the third side, the edge die, to help determine the emission sequence of Capped Bust halves. For more on their landmark work, read the ANS Coinage of the Americas Conference issue on silver coins, available from leading numismatic booksellers. As the die marriages missing from my collection become available for study, I'll continue this story with results of edge die comparisons. I am interested in corresponding with anyone who has an interest in this subject. My email address is slumlord98@sbcglobal.net.

1805 HALF DOLLAR DIE LINKAGE CHART

		Obv die	DM	Rev. die	
1st use		1	O.101	A	Only use, develops cud
2nd use, cracks develop		1	O.102	B	1st use, develops crack@ U, seen on this and all subsequent uses
only use, goes terminal		2	O.103	C	2nd use, crack@ TATE heavier
only use, goes terminal		3	O.104	C	1st use, crack at TATE develops midway
1st use		4	O.105	C	3rd use, crack at TATE becomes two cuds
2nd use, crack develops		4	O.106	D	only use, no terminal flaw known
1st use		5	O.107	E	only use, no terminal flaw known
1st use		6	O.108	B	3rd use
2nd use, no fatal flaw		6	O.109	F	only use, cud develops at NITE, heavy crack thru shield
4th use, rim crumbles		7	O.110	B	2nd use
3rd use		7	O.111	G	only use, extensive cracks, die chip at R. wingtip
2nd use		7	O.112	H	third use, previously on 1803 O.103 and 104, cud develops at TES
1st use, unclashed spec. exist		7	O.113	I	only use, cud develops@ ER
2nd use		5	O.114	B	4th use? none available for examination

1805 HALF DOLLAR DIE LINKAGE CHART

		Obv die	DM	Rev die	
		1	O.101	A	
		1	O.102	B	
		3	O.104	C	
		2	O.103	C	
		4	O.105	C	
		4	O.106	D	
		5	O.107	E	could fit anywhere, need to compare edge die
		7	O.113	I	
		7	O.112	H	
		7	O.111	G	
		7	O.110	B	
		6	O.108	B	
		6	O.109	F	
		5	O.114	B	



Case of the Reappearing Serif

Brad Higgins

There were a couple problems with my article from the previous issue of JRJ. First, a number of images were lost when an email filter removed them from a file. Those images appear here for the first time. Second, it might have been more appropriately titled "Case of the Reappearing Serif, as it documents the fact that what has been considered by some researchers to be a case of a broken punch is actually a metal flow issue.

Notice in the first image is the earliest known die state of 1805 O.105. Note the weakness in the clouds on the right and the missing serif on F.

In the second image, notice that the die has been lapped and the clouds are fully struck up below OF where they were weak on the first image, and the serif is still missing; also note that the cud above TES is more advanced.

In the third image, the cud is similar in size, but the crack atop STA is much heavier. This will eventually result in a two piece cud that covers the top of STATES. Also, the serif on F is now visible. Is the reason for its late appearance due to another lapping? It is difficult to imagine that the diesinker would have annealed this crumbling die and then added the serif.

I would like to hear from anyone with a different idea of how this serif came to appear on a later die state coin.



Illustration 1:
Weak Clouds
Missing Serif on F



Illustration 2:
Strong Clouds
Missing Serif on F
Cud developing at ATE



Illustration 3:
Strong Clouds
Serif on F visible
Additional crack at STA

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